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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

5-27-1927

Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 21)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-
ness I hold fast,
and will not let
it go."
—Job 27.8

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers
of the world
unite! You
have nothing to
lose but your
chains."

Vol. IX, No. 21

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1927

PRICE 3 CENTS

Joint Board Opens Bensonhurst Office

To Control Large Number of Shops
in New Brooklyn District

The New York Joint Board of the International has opened last week an office at 8120 Eighteenth Avenue, between 81st and 82nd Streets, Brooklyn.

The new office is located in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, and will be in a position to control the Coney Island, Bath Beach and Bay Ridge localities, where a large number of cloak and dress shops, mostly contract, have been in operation in the past few years. It will be recalled that during the recent cloak strike the Bensonhurst and Coney Island sections in particular were the scene of widespread strike-breaking activity which the Communist-controlled picket officials were not able to control.

In announcing the opening of the Bensonhurst office, Vice-President Jacob Halperin, the manager of the organization committee of the International Joint Board, pointed out this fact, adding that the volunteer committees which are now working in Brooklyn will from this office endeavor to organize the non-union shops in the district. He also invites all the cloakmakers and dressmakers living in those sections of Brooklyn to come to the new headquarters, which contains a meeting hall, where they may discuss with their fellow workers the affairs of their trade and of their union that are of common interest to all of them.

Police Bars Cloakmakers from Communist-Staged "Peace" Meeting

Another "Impartial" Fraud Exposed—Only Communists Allowed to Speak at Packed "Cloak Peace Meeting"—"Peacemakers" Revile and Attack International

A new "peace" maneuver, planned for some time by Communist-inspired "impartial" busybodies, was staged last Monday evening in Cooper Union, and, as has been the fate of most Communist maneuvers in recent months, fell flat like a wet blanket and fizzled out.

The regular Communist motley crowd attended, as anticipated, in force. But in addition to these habitués, there also came to this meeting, driven by sheer curiosity, a number of loyal cloakmakers, members of the International Union, and some of these asked the privilege of the floor, but were, of course, rudely refused. Anyone who raised his voice in protest against the abuse which was streaming from the platform upon the International Union and its members, was either thrown out by strong-arm committeemen or escorted out by the police. Thirty cloakmakers were in this manner barred from speaking and put out of the place.

Those, however, who wished to attack the Union in the interests of "peace and harmony"—Communist fashion—were given full freedom to vent their venom. After the meeting adjourned, the cloakmakers who attended it were wondering who had supplied the so-called "impartial committee" with the funds required to stage the meeting and to obtain such costly "protection" in the form of private detectives who

Section Meetings All Over City Alive With New Vigor

Enlarged Committees Formed to Picket Shops—Open F
Continue to Attract Big Crowds—President Sigman
New Pressers' Forum Saturday

The intense activity launched some weeks ago by the newly organized volunteer committee of all the cloak and dress locals in Greater New York has brought about this week a further extension of the scope of the original plans of the committee. To the other branches of the volunteer work there has been added a section meeting committee, whose business it is to organize the various locals in every district in Greater New York—Bronx, Harlem, Brownsville, Williamsburg, Borough Park, Coney Island, and other sections where cloak and dressmakers live.

The reply of the organization committee to the provocative and hoodlunk tactics of the Communists is: more trade union meetings, more trade union constructive propaganda. In reply to Communist street brawls and assaults, the organization replies with strengthened picket activity against all shops that had been called out in strike. The leaflets of the propaganda department are being distributed by the committeemen in large quantities. The open air forums are being attended daily by hundreds of workers with regularity. During the current week the speakers who attended these fo-

rum meetings included Brothers Levinson, general manager Hochman, Miller, Moser, Kurlinsky, David Dubinsky, Guterson, and P. Demblitzer of the propaganda bureau.

Very great activity is going on this week among the cloak and dress pressers, who were forced to enlarge their club rooms to take care of trade and organization meetings. The pressers also have organized a forum of their own, which will be opened this Saturday with President Sigman as chief speaker, who will be followed by Brothers Vasilovsky, Kohen, manager of Local 36, and P. Demblitzer.

During next week the cloakmakers' forum at 122 West 18th Street will be addressed by President Sigman, Vice-president Molly Friedman, S. Farber, editor of the "Union Worker," and P. Kurlinsky of the "Justice" staff.

Operators Demand Only International Members Be Allowed In Union Shops

Bronx Meeting Calls on Joint Board to Ban Not-Registered Disrupters From Organized Shops

The Cloak Operators' Union's Bronx district meeting last Thursday, at Hunt's Point Palace, adopted unanimously a decision calling on the International and the Joint Board not to allow any person save such as carry International union cards to work in union shops.

It was a well attended meeting, with

more than 400 workers present. The operators, among other things, discussed the urgent necessity of keeping up during the current slack period union standards in the shops and to defeat the efforts of many employers to lower work conditions on account of prevailing unemployment in the whole trade. As a means to effect better union control in the shops, it was then suggested that a strict policy with regard to the not-registered be forthwith adopted by the Union. The meeting also decided to ask the executive board of Local 2 to call district meetings throughout the city to discuss the matter.

Bro. Sol Guterson was chairman of
(Continued on Page 2)

W.C. Convention Delegates Thank Cleveland Cloakmaker Hosts

Cleveland members of the I. L. G. W. U. are hospitable folk, as their fellow members from other cities have had an opportunity to learn on many occasions in the past.

Recently 23 members of the I. L. G. W. U. visited Cleveland as delegates to the Workmen's Circle convention, and were received with warm hospitality by the leaders and rank and file of our Cleveland locals, at a meeting, a banquet and a sight-seeing tour arranged especially in their honor.

In recognition of their kindness, now a committee of this delegation sent a letter to the Cleveland Joint Board expressing thanks for the kind treatment accorded to them. The letter, which is signed by Ben Kaplan, chairman of the New York Joint Board, Ben Moser, secretary-treasurer of the Joint Board, and M. J. Ashbless, R. Miller, J. Miller, and J. Wechsler, among other things says "we will always remember with great pleasure the cordial spirit in which we were received and the warm hospitality

that you extended to us, and we sincerely hope for an early opportunity to demonstrate our appreciation by reciprocating in a like manner."

Decoration Day, Next Monday, Is Legal Holiday For Cloak and Dress Makers

Next Monday, May 30, is a legal holiday for all cloakmakers and dressmakers in Greater New York, according to our agreements with the employers' associations and individual employers.

No cloakmaker or dressmaker is to work on that day. All cloakmakers are to receive regular pay for Decoration Day. Dressmakers who work by the week are also to get pay.

Committees from all locals will patrol next Monday the garment district to watch against violations.

By order of the Joint Board Cloak, Suit, Skirt and Dress Makers' Unions of New York,

JULIUS HOCHMAN, General Manager,
BEN MOSER, Secretary-Treasurer.

Two New Cloak Shops In Strike

Union Will Resist Every Effort of Employers to Destroy Shop Conditions

Last week, the International Joint Board again showed that it does not intend to stand idly by while some employers attempt to demoralize work conditions in their shops. Slack or no slack, the manufacturers must live up to their contract obligations. The organization committee learned that in the shop of Cooper & Fisher, 144 W. 18th Street, the workers were compelled to work piece work. The shop was at once taken down to the headquarters of the committee, 122 West 18th Street, where the worker held a meeting. Two hours later, a settlement was effected and the men returned to work.

In the shop of Skrifloff & Einstein,

162 West 25th Street, the organization committee has called out the workers because the firm discharged a presser. The employer thereupon went to the deposed bunch of Communist officials and obtained from them an "order" to the workers to return to work. The strikers ignored the "order", and are determined to stay out until the presser goes back with them.

The strike of the workers of Benj. Levy & Co., now in force for two weeks, continues in good shape. The organization committee succeeded in stopping off from work all this firm's contractors, and it is expected now that the firm will soon be compelled to settle.

White Goods Workers Strike In Two Shops

As a result of recent organizing activity in the white goods trade, Local No. 62 is now confronted with a strike in two underwear shops.

One of the struck shops belongs to the Shaler & Arnold firm of 15 West 24th Street, which manufactures silk underwear. When the workers in this shop organized several weeks ago and demanded union work terms, the firm locked out the most active among them. This act occurred just when the Union was negotiating an agreement with the firm. The local replied with a strike.

The other strike is in the shop of the Dorothy Brasiere Co., 35 West 33rd Street. The strike is a week old; in this shop Local 62 has for months past carried on organization work, but without much success, as the girls, though dissatisfied with conditions in the shop, were afraid to budge. Recently, the shop moved uptown, and, apparently having gained the impression that it need no longer fear the Union, the firm decided to cut the girls' wages. In reply to this move, the workers in a body left the shop, and are now demanding a full-fledged union shop, including 42 hours of work weekly.

Both shops are well picketed, and the strikers are confident that they will win their fight. The local has issued a call to the members to help in patrolling the two factories. Local 62 is also calling the attention of the members to the fact that Decoration Day, next Monday, May 30, is a legal holiday in the white goods trade; that

all workers are to abstain from work that day, and that week workers are to receive full pay for this day, as if they were regularly employed.

Unity House Begins Registry

(Continued from Page 1)

Friday, June 17th. Representatives of all local unions in New York and vicinity and of the labor movement in general, and a great many friends of Unity are expected to come to the opening.

Those who wish to attend the opening should register at once. For all information regarding registration, directions, etc., apply at office given above, or phone Chelsea 2148.

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With the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board

A meeting of the Joint Board was held on Friday, May 26th, 1927, at the International, 3 West 16th Street.

Chairman—Brother Rieff:

The minutes of the last meeting of the Joint Board are approved as read.

Report of the Board of Directors is read and approved.

The chairman presents Brother B. Moser, newly elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Joint Board. The delegates greet the new Secretary with applause.

Communications:

Locals 2, 3, 9 and 48 approve the minutes of the Joint Board of May 18th, 1927.

Locals 23 and 82 approve the minutes of the Joint Board of May 6th and 13th, 1927, as well as the report of the Board of Directors of May 4th.

Local 10 informs the Board that Brother Friedman will replace Brother L. Forer as delegate to the Joint Board, as the latter resigned.

Brother Friedman is seated.

Report of General Manager:

Brother Hochman reports that time is drawing near when the manufacturers of the Industrial Council Association will avail themselves of the privilege which was granted to them by the deposed "left" leaders of the Union, to discharge 10 per cent of their workers. It is, therefore, essential for the Union to meet in conference with this Association with regard to this reorganization. The members of the Industrial Council who will make use of their privilege to discharge 70 per cent of their employees will be obliged to replace them immediately with other Union members showing working cards of the International.

The Independent manufacturers, declares Brother Hochman, are not entitled to a reorganization, and should these manufacturers make an attempt to avail themselves of this Communist gift, the Union will do everything in its power to oppose it.

The general manager stated further that a meeting of all local managers was held on Friday, April 26th, at which a policy of a uniform initiation fee for all unregistered members, who are now coming in crowds to register with the International, was decided upon. The decision of the managers will go into power as soon as it will have the approval of President Sigman.

Brother Hochman's report is approved.

The meeting is then adjourned.

B. MOSER,
Sec'y-Treasurer.

Operators Demand Strict Union Shop

(Continued from Page 1)

the meeting, and among those who spoke to the operators were Brothers B. Kaplan, manager of Local 2; B. Fried, secretary; Ben Moser, secretary-treasurer of the Joint Board; J. Zuckerman, chairman of Local 2, and several men from the floor. The resolution, among other points, stresses the fact that "the small minority which still refuses to register with the International locals has automatically severed its connections with the Union and while working in our shops they are conducting a vicious propaganda against the International and are hurting the interests of our workers and of our industry."

CURRENT BOOKS AT REDUCED PRICES

Our Educational Department is continuing its arrangements with leading publishers, which enables it to furnish books to our members at wholesale prices. Lately, very interesting books have appeared on social and economic problems, and also fiction.

DRESSMAKERS

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 22, I. L. G. W. U.

Regular Section Meetings

of our Local will be held

Thursday Evening, June 2nd, 1927

In the following places

BRONX

McKINLEY SQUARE GARDENS
1258-1260 Boston Road (Near 167th St.)

DOWN TOWN

BEETHOVEN HALL
210 East 5th Street

The following is the order of business

1. Election of Chairman and Secretary of the Section.
2. Reading of Executive and Joint Board Minutes.
3. Recommendations of the Sick Benefit Committee.

Sisters and Brothers:

You are urged to attend these meetings. Come and get acquainted with the present activity of the organization.

EXECUTIVE BOARD LOCAL 22, I. L. G. W. U.

J. COOPER, Chairman,
J. SPIELMAN, Secretary.

Live Topics In Dressmakers' Union

By JOS. SPIELMAN,
Secretary-Manager Local 22

Such of our members as read regularly "Justice" are familiar, we believe, more or less with the important events of our local, and because of this reason, we have until now refrained from directly using the columns of our paper. There is, however, an element among our members that is interested in the more intimate doings of their local than in the general activities of the whole organization. It is mainly to these, and partly to the other members, that we desire to give a brief accounting at this time of some of the things of live interest in our local.

Organization Question

The thing that mostly interests us all at this moment, is the work now being conducted by the local organization committee in conjunction with a similar committee of the Joint Board. We assume that the members of our local are acquainted with the fact that a concerted effort is now being made to unionize some of the so-called "open" or scrub shops in the cloak and dress industries, the number of which has of late greatly increased. This is admittedly a highly important work, and no member of Local No. 22 who can spare some time, should fail to help in it. It would seem to us that, if every member of our union would give this matter a little serious thought, there would soon be created an organization committee of such size and strength that it could adequately cover the whole field.

We must not deceive ourselves. The question is: How long can a union shop continue to operate side by side with an "open" shop without danger of contamination? It is evident that it is the interest of the union shop and the union men in the shops to see that not only should union conditions be maintained in their own shops but also that the "open" shops are unionized. This, in our judgment, is not an abstract question, nor one of theory. On the contrary, in the language of the worker it is a bread and butter question; an economical problem. From our personal experience, we know that weak union control may at times be in the union shop, we would a thousand times rather work in a union shop than in an "open" shop. Hence, to maintain and to strengthen the union's control in the dress industry, we must keep on organizing our forces until the "open" shop becomes a thing of the past.

This much is clear to us all. In accordance with this program, our organization committee is also endeavoring to carry on a mass-agitation, the aim of which is to propagate and defend the principles of unionism among the workers in the industry. This is an old method, yet one which never lost its effectiveness. We employed this method agitation and propaganda in the early stages of our organization, and used it effectively in the historic battles of the waist and dressmakers of 1909, 1912, etc. The only

difference between then and now is, that while in the past we only had the employers as our enemy, we now have, in addition, the fanatic Communist groups who directly or otherwise are serving the interests of the employers and are serving it well. Because of this condition, the work of the present organization committee should, and does, command the services of all the active members of Local 22. Its tried and faithful friends have a splendid opportunity to offer a "lift" at a time when it is appreciated most. Call at our office and enroll yourself with this splendid group of men and women, who gladly give whatever free time they have to a cause which is so near and dear to our hearts.

Relief Fund

From the special announcement card mailed to each member's home, we believe, it is now known to all that our Sick and Tuberculosis Fund (commonly known as the Relief Fund) is functioning as heretofore. Owing to the fact that the relief assessment stamps were not ready in January and February, some of our members remained under the impression that the Fund exists no more. That is wrong. As a matter of fact, the Fund assessments are on sale in all the offices of the International, since March 1. The treasury of the Fund which, according to the constitution of the Union, has no connection with the other assets of the organization and cannot be used for any other purposes save for sick and tuberculosis benefits to the members of our local, has been squandered by the last Communist administration along with all other moneys of the Union. Under the circumstances the Relief Fund is unable to resume payment of full legal sick benefit, at least, until such time as a substantial reserve amount is available. It is our hope that the collection of the Fund will increase to the end that full sick benefit may be payable about July 1, 1937. In the meantime, however, there were a number of instances where immediate assistance was required. Members were in distress. Such was the case with members in the shop of Greenwald & Freedman, Midwood Dress, etc. The relief committee at once extended certain sums as "emergency relief." We feel that our relief fund needs no propaganda. It is no idle boast that there is no other organization which offers such substantial benefits for such small premium—25 cents per month. It is important, however, that our members know that no person is eligible for any benefit if he or she is in arrears for more than three months in dues and assessments. This rule has always been enforced by our local and will be adhered to now more than ever.

Dues

We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to remind our members about their arrears. It is not a pleasant subject to talk about. It never has been and particularly now after

President Sigman's Visit In Chicago

By MORRIS BIALIS

A short time ago a very honored guest visited our city, in the person of Morris Sigman, President of our International Union. Brother Sigman stayed in Chicago for about a week, and during this time addressed our members at many local meetings. Our president also visited the "left" Joint Board and threw the Communists into a state of feverish fear, expecting at any moment to hear the order from the President's lips that the Board be dissolved.

And their fright was due to the following causes: When it became known that President Sigman was coming to Chicago, the leaders of the "left" Joint Board became busy, spreading all kinds of malicious and libelous statements to intimidate the membership. For example, they circulated a rumor, that one of the President's first acts would be to bring back the 44-hour week; that he would then conduct a registration through which half the membership would be expelled; that the "rights" and President Sigman have already worked out schemes to destroy the Union. It is hardly necessary for me to mention all the malicious statements which the Communists made about our President. It is well known that they are experts in this art.

And somehow they really succeeded in making the desired impression upon

a poor season. However, we consider it our duty. The local is in need of funds. It is true that sooner or later the dues will be paid. The accumulation of arrears, nevertheless, is an "unhealthy" condition, both for the member and the local union. So long as the indebtedness is small, and small it is, because until January, 1937, the arrears were remitted by the International—it is less difficult to pay up. Some of our older members are accustomed to pay 2 and 3 stamps weekly during the season through their shop chairlady. This is a very good habit to cultivate. Our advice to the members is therefore to pay regularly and 2 or 3 stamp payments are far more preferable than the \$5 and \$6 payments.

Section Meetings

On Thursday, June 2nd, our first section meetings will be held. The Bronx members will meet in McKinley Square Gardens, 1255-1269 Boston Road (near 169th Street) while the members residing in the downtown section of the city will meet at Beechoven Hall, 210 East 5th Street. We cannot urge our members too strongly to attend their meetings. Aside from a general discussion of the conditions prevailing in our industry, there will be held nominations and election for a section chairman and secretary. The minutes of the last few meetings of the local executive Board and the joint board will be read. There will also be submitted for the members' approval several very important recommendations from our Relief Committee. We hope, therefore, that we will have a splendid attendance at both these meetings. Similar meetings in the other sections of the city will be called in the near future.

on the membership. The leaders, however, were even more afraid than some of the members because they actually began to believe all their own lies. The vast majority of the membership, however, remained immune against the poisonous propaganda of the Communists. This became clear from the very first moment that President Sigman arrived.

He was met at the train by a great delegation of members of our local unions; he was showered with flowers, and was welcomed by these true and loyal trade-unionists in a very enthusiastic manner, as the man whose hand guides our International.

The first local to be visited by Brother Sigman was the Raincoat Makers' Union, Local 54. On that night we had one of our real Chicago storms. The rain came down in torrents, and the wind, too, was not asleep. It is true, that the "lefts" claim, that their "left" god played a trick upon the "rights", but our "right" raincoat makers know better—they insist that the storm was the work of their "right" god, in order to give them more work. Notwithstanding the weather, however, the meeting was very well attended. The hall was filled to capacity with raincoat makers, cloakmakers, dressmakers, and members of our other locals, who wished to be the first to welcome our president.

Brother Sigman's appearance was greeted with a storm of applause, and the chairman presented him with a beautiful basket of flowers on behalf of Local 54. He was then introduced to address the meeting.

Brother Sigman presented a masterly description of the New York situation. He pointed out the position which the New York jobbers held, and still hold in the New York cloak industry. He explained why the Union found it advisable to make the demands which it did make, especially with regard to "limitation." He touched upon the stand which the Communists took with regard to these demands, as well as their manner of propaganda. He also dwelled upon the recommendations of the Governor's Commission, the attitude of the Communists to the Commission, the calling of the strike, and the "efficient" leadership of the disastrous New York cloak strike.

He also explained the reasons that made it necessary and advisable for the International to take over the leadership of the strike into its own hands.

President Sigman concluded his address with a short survey of the New York situation, declaring that the membership is with the International; that the shops are being controlled by the Joint Board of the International, which is devoting all its energies to organization work. He is confident that it will not be very long before the International will again take its legitimate place in the American labor movement.

At the close of the president's address, the members of Local 54 unanimously pledged loyalty and devotion to the International.

The following Friday President Sigman (Continued on page 7)

Buy Union Stamped Shoes

We ask all members of organized labor to purchase shoes bearing our Union Stamp on the sole, inner-sole or lining of the shoe. We ask you not to buy any shoes unless you actually see this Union Stamp.

Boot & Shoe Workers' Union

Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor
244 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.
COLLIN LOVELL, General President
CHARLES L. BAYNE, General Secretary-Treasurer



JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea-2148

MORRIS SIGMAN, President A. HAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer
MAX D. DANISH, Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year.

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EDITORIALS

UNION SHOPS FOR UNION MEMBERS

The demand voiced by the members of the Bronx section of the New York cloak operators' organization, at a meeting last week, that the Joint Board of the International locals take steps "not to allow any person not yet affiliated with the International to work in a union shop," is a demand to which, we are quite certain, the leadership of the Union will give serious and prompt consideration.

About five months ago the International demanded a showdown on the line of division between the loyal members and the members who preferred to trail along with the Communist Party controlled officials. It was a clear cut issue, and upon that issue the International has succeeded in enrolling the overwhelming majority of the cloakmakers and of the dressmakers on its side.

That registration, even the enemies of our Union are compelled to admit, was achieved without the taint of force or compulsion. The International leaders told the cloakmakers and the dressmakers that they were free to make their choice between the American labor movement with which their Union is affiliated and the Communist leadership under which the deposed joint board had been for many months prior to the cloak strike and during that strike. And most of the workers in the dress and cloak shops unhesitatingly accepted the International leadership and have since remained loyal to its laws and policies.

The small minority, who of their own volition, after due and repeated warnings, remain today outside the fold of the International locals, it may safely be assumed, belong to either of two groups: They may be old-fashioned scabs, the kind of outcasts even the best organized and regulated labor union cannot entirely be free from, or they belong to the die-hard Communist following which, though hopelessly outnumbered and beaten, is still determined to support clandestinely or openly, as the situation permits, the deposed outfit of the Communist job-holders, and continually to create as much mischief, friction and sabotage in the shops as possible.

This work of disruption, the not-registered individuals and groups in the shops, we must admit, have tried their hardest to carry on without letup, though without much success, all through last season and ever since the slack season has hit our trades again several weeks ago. Repaying the International Joint Board for allowing them to stay on the jobs unmolested and to benefit from union condition and union protection in the shops, these "left" followers freely aligned themselves with the agents of the Communist Party leaving nothing undone to harass the Union and to interfere with restoration of normal conditions in the industry.

There is no question but that the International Union and its affiliated Joint Board and locals never intended, nor do they intend now, to deprive any cloakmaker or dressmaker from making a living in the industry because these cloakmakers or dressmakers happen to differ from the majority in their political or industrial viewpoints. A broad and tolerant attitude toward members of all political beliefs has always been the keystone policy of our Union, and it is precisely this policy that animated the International when, even at the conclusion of the registration period, it had not insisted on registration as an absolute condition for holding a job in a union-agreement shop. Certainly the International could have carried out such a strict trade-union policy at that time, as its agreements with all the manufacturers' associations and with most of the independent employers called for the employment of workers who belonged to the Union, and that meant to locals affiliated with the International only.

Instead of a rigid policy of exclusive employment of registered workers in all shops, the International, however, preferred to adopt a more patient attitude of watchful waiting with regard to the not-registered minority. But this policy of patience, as was predicted by many, has been misused by the disloyal element, on the one hand, to keep alive turmoil and anti-International propaganda in the shops, going to the extent of calling out fake strikes and similar disturbances, and has been misinterpreted, on the other hand, by many of the loyal workers as a sign of weakness and of temporizing with the enemy.

The result today is a clear-voiced and definite demand on the part of the rank and file to cleanse the union shops from this disrupting element. The remnant which is supporting of its own free will a dual scab union in the ladies' garment industry has no room in the union shops controlled and protected by the International Joint Board and locals. Their place is in the scab nooks and corners of the market, where they may ply their trade ignored

by the loyal masses of the membership of the Union, having forfeited by their anti-union conduct every vestige of a right to be tolerated in union shops.

We can readily understand the earnestness and sincerity of this demand. Tolerance and forbearance are estimable and ennobling traits, but they too appear to have their limits. And our members seem now to have come to the conclusion that the Union has about reached its limit in practicing tolerance and patience with that group of snipers and back-biters. In the unanimous decision adopted by the meeting of the cloak operators in the Bronx last week there is reflected, we honestly believe, the inner voice of tens of thousands of other workers in all the shops of our industry: Clean the union factories of the sworn enemies of the International! The policy of watchful waiting must end; these fellows had been given long enough time to prove that they had a spark of dormant trade union loyalty in their makeup. The Union should complete the showdown which it began last winter when it called upon the workers to register, with the final slogan: union shops for union members only!

RESULTS THAT COUNT

The third conference of the Committee for the Preservation of Trade Unions confirms our belief in the indestructible soul of our movement and the faith in its ultimate mission. Our unions may at times weaken and falter under attacks; they may occasionally fall prey to the subtle intrigues of a demagogue. Somehow, however, they invariably come up on top at the eleventh hour and refuse to die or to cease being trade unions.

In this respect the reports that came in from every section and division of our trade unions at that conference, telling of the amazing progress achieved in the brief span of less than four months of concentrated fighting against Communist disruptive influence in the labor unions, were particularly gratifying because they served to illustrate this inherent tenacity, unconquerable spirit, and the unquenchable will to live. The gleeful, joy-bristling reports by delegates who represented the best organized and most influential labor organizations in New York to the effect that the work of safeguarding the union movement from the attacks of a vicious internal enemy is bearing splendid fruit and is headed toward complete victory, brought out the fact that the principal task of the Committee had nearly been accomplished, something which even the most optimistic among us wouldn't have dared to predict last January when it was first launched.

There was not a break in the line. The furriers, the cap-makers, the cloakmakers and dressmakers, the men's clothing workers, the leather goods workers—all brought the glad tidings that the Communist politicians who attempted the life of our movement a couple of years ago are everywhere either completely routed or are in hasty retreat hotly pursued by our workers. More than that: The conference decided forthwith to organize anti-Communist action committees in every city where the Communists have secured a foothold in the unions, through their time-dis-honored trickery and underhand work, and to drive them out of the labor movement in other cities as they were driven out of the labor movement in New York City.

There is reason in these results for hope and belief that, when the next and final conference of the great emergency committee, which was set on foot to combat the Communist pestilence in trade unions, meets in the near future, it will be in a position to announce to the organized workers the glad news that not only has it accomplished its historic mission in New York City but that it has helped to drive the demagogues back into their lairs in every industrial center in the land. Our movement has the vitality, the strength and the will to do it, as it has amply demonstrated during the past few months.

MAC DONALD'S BRIEF STAY

That nearly three-fourths of J. Ramsay MacDonald's stay in the United States should have been spent by him in a Philadelphia hospital will be keenly regretted by every person directly or indirectly connected with the American Labor movement. This sickness frustrated all plans for mass-meetings, lectures and receptions in the most important cities in the country, meetings at which the former Labor Premier of Great Britain was to have spoken his mind on the past, present, and, possibly, future of the English workers' trade union and political movement.

The few hundred comrades and friends who participated in the brief impromptu gathering in MacDonald's honor a few hours before his boat left for England surely could not fail to realize that the ex-Premier himself was grievously disappointed because illness had deprived him of the long-sought opportunity to talk to the labor movement of this country at close range at a moment when this opportunity was all but realized. The short farewell talk, which Comrade MacDonald delivered obviously still under the strain of the illness that had drawn so heavily on his vitality, replete with so much sparkling sincerity and such a warm, fervent appeal for labor's international solidarity, only deepened the regret that the American workers were deprived of his inspiring message which he himself was so eager to deliver.

Let us hope that Comrade MacDonald will, as he promised, come back to us, again the guest of the labor movement, as soon as possible, next year as suggested, to complete the tour which proved abortive this year. Ramsay MacDonald has a great deal to tell us, and, we are confident, that the trade union movement of America will be found ready to help make his tour a great and outstanding event that will leave a wholesome and lasting effect in our midst.

The Crisis In Oil

By LOUIS S. STANLEY

What crises of distress have arisen from the stiff-limbed bosoms of our oil kings! Six cuts in the price of crude oil in as many months are not conducive to profit-making. But it could not be helped. Over-production of oil had made cut-throat competition inevitable. If only producers could agree to reduce the output then prices could be jacked up and all would be well. Therefore, the frantic appeals to the government to keep its eyes shut while the oil magnates agree to snuff out competition. As to the blessings of the competitive system—those are all right in their proper place.

What has brought about the present crisis has been the prolific gush of oil in the Seminole field of Oklahoma. This pool was discovered early last spring through the "wild-cat" or pioneer drilling of the Indian Territory Illuminating Company. As the drills bore deeper into the ground it became more and more evident that here was a real find. A wild scramble for lots followed. The various Standard Oil companies entrenched themselves firmly. By the end of July the production was large enough to warrant separate figures for Seminole in the statistics for Oklahoma. More than eleven thousand barrels a day were reported. The production increased very rapidly until by November the average was in excess of one hundred and twelve thousand.

The First Crisis

That brought about the first pinch. Price cutting began. The oil was coming up so fast that the pipe line facilities for carrying it away were almost taxed to the limit. Storage was an expensive proposition. Therefore, on November 2, 1926 the oil companies operating in the Seminole field met at the headquarters of the Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association at Tulsa, Oklahoma, and agreed:

1. To appoint an umpire to rotate the oil runs, that is, apportion the oil that could be let out through the available pipe lines.
2. To elect a committee of five to advise the umpire; and
3. To stop all wells at what is known as the top of the sand until November 25, with certain exceptions where it would work injustices.

Nobody asked the state or federal governments for advice. Ray H. Collins formerly with the Echo Oil Company was selected umpire. As a result of his operations the production was kept down. With his dictatorship over, the unrestricted drilling began once more. Three other pools in the vicinity of the original one at Seminole City were located. Production mounted. At the beginning of May it was almost three hundred and fifty thousand barrels a day, double the amount which caused the artificial limitation last November. This brought about the second and present crisis.

Invisible Oil

Two facts must be remembered to understand the hysteria of the oil operators: the technology of drilling and the extensive production in other fields. First, oil flows in pools underground and each well tends to carry away the precious liquid from its neighbor. Hence, the necessity of drilling and drawing off the oil as fast as possible, so that the other fellow will not get it first. The plot upon which your derrick stands is of no account; the oil comes to you from the entire field. The owner of the surface is helpless. Secondly, this process of frantic drilling has been

going on everywhere but particularly in California, Texas and Oklahoma. All those have increased their production since last year. The first has just emerged from a disastrous price war. West Texas has been alive with activity. The opening of the Seminole City pool and more recently those in the adjoining sections of the Seminole Field, known as Searight, Bowlegs and Earlboro, have put Oklahoma in to first place among the oil-producing states, long occupied by California. The country's production has increased from two million to two and a half million barrels within a year. The competition has been most intense in the Mid-Continent field, where there are still enough independents to challenge the Standard Oil powers but other parts of the country have been affected, too. The companies were worried. It seemed probable that the new pools in the Seminole area and in West Texas would produce even more in the near future. There was no telling when some "wild cat" would pounce upon a new oil field and aggravate the situation. Something had to be done.

Now, notice that the oil chiefs were not concerned with the over-production as such. Depriving future generations of their heritage did not bother them. Conservation of an important natural resource was far from their minds. What did cause them annoyance was the effect on prices. Over-production meant cut-throat competition and that foretold lessened profits. Over production would put a strain on the storage and pipe line facilities, resulting in the loss of oil through overflow and necessitating outlays of capital for new equipment.

Drifting Into Chaos

There had been crises in the oil business before. The depression of 1923 was still fresh in mind, when prices for crude oil had dropped to even a lower level than at present. Discoveries of big pools had upset the industry in the past. The problem of getting some order out of the chaos increased in urgency. The needs of national defense made the situation even more pressing. In 1925 President Coolidge appointed the Federal Oil Conservation Board, with Secretary of the Interior Work as chairman. Hearings were held in the first part of 1926 and a report was rendered on September 6 last. The Board estimated that the visible supply of petroleum oil in the United States would only last six years, recommended some form of voluntary cooperation among land owners and operators as necessary for purposes of conservation and cited, the form of cooperation practiced in one district in Wyoming and another in California as commendable. At the hearings Charles Evans Hughes, speaking for the American Petroleum Institute, the representative of the organized oil operators, made a vehement attack upon Federal regulation. Let the companies alone, overlook the requirements of the Anti-Trust Laws and all will be well. His was the laissez-faire that justified freedom of monopoly just as easily as freedom of competition. In October Secretary of Commerce Hoover, another member of the Oil Conservation Board, was passing through Tulsa, Oklahoma, on a speaking tour. In an interview with a representative of one of the trade papers he called upon the American Petroleum Institute at its annual sessions the following December "to get together and formulate some plan regarding modification of the Sherman anti-Trust Act as applied to drilling flash fields, and properly present this plan. I see no reason why it should not receive favorable

action at the hands of Congress." What could be plainer than that? It will be recalled that the cutting down of production at Seminole in November brought the question nearer home. How did the American Petroleum Institute respond? After a two days' debate it was resolved to appoint a committee of seven to recommend to the board of directors or its executive committee at the earliest practicable date a program of legislation, Federal and State, to be advocated by the Institute giving sanction and effect to agreements by oil producers for curtailment of production in pools where and during period when there is overproduction, having for their purpose the economical and orderly production of oil. Evidently the operators were afraid to risk any governmental assistance and were very careful in restricting the scope of the laws they should like to see passed. Better no help at all than regulations, as far as they were concerned.

Then, came the panic of this spring when Seminole production reached its peak. Walter C. Teagle, President of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, rushed to Washington to confer with Secretary of the Interior Work, also chairman of the Old Conservation Board. That was on May 9. On the eleventh there was made public a letter to Work written by Teagle and W. D. Farish, President of the Humble Oil Company, a Standard oil subsidiary. The latter two gentlemen advocated a plan for curtailment of production for which they wanted the government's permission. The same day a conference was held in New York at Teagle's office at which the leading Mid-Continent operators were

represented. On the twelfth it was announced that a detente would once more be established in the Seminole area with Ray H. Collins as umpire again. For two weeks no wells would be started or completed unless as necessary. Simultaneously a committee of five was appointed to work out a national program of action. Another meeting was fixed for May 25.

Thus Far and No Further

How far the oil operators want to go is implied in the proposal of Teagle and Farish. They suggest that the producers in any block agree to divide the oil equally among themselves instead of claiming all they derive from their particular subdivision. This will eliminate indiscriminate and hasty drilling irrespective of over-supply. To do this on a wide scale it will probably be necessary to gain some exemption from the anti-trust laws. Local curtailment would come under state regulations unless interstate commerce were affected, which could be proven easily enough, should the Federal Government be unfriendly.

Somewhat or other the only fundamental solution to the oil question has been overlooked in the outbreak of hysteria. The "undivided fractional interests" of Teagle or the "unit plan" of Henry L. Doherty or the "co-operative" curtailment of the American Petroleum Institute are all makeshifts. If oil is no respecter of boundary lines which happen to be marked on the surface of the earth and drilling in one section affects a whole area, then the logical conclusion is that all oil should belong to the national government as the most practical and most just of compromises. But aside from that if we consider the strategic importance that oil plays in modern life, we cannot but regret that its exploitation depends upon the dictates of profit. Private ownership has made a mess of oil, nationalization can do no worse.

A. F. of L. Executive Council Asks New Trial For Sacco and Vanzetti

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor on May 19, it was decided to forward an appeal to Governor Alvin T. Fuller of Massachusetts asking him to institute a most rigid investigation of the Sacco-Vanzetti case "at which all the facts and evidence could be carefully considered and acted upon." The messages reads in part:

"The Detroit convention of the American Federation of Labor adopted a declaration favoring a new trial for Sacco and Vanzetti, who had been found guilty by a jury of murder in the first degree. The convention believed that the ends of justice in this case would be best served by such a course and all impressions of doubt as to the guilt or innocence of Sacco or Vanzetti could be removed through a new trial at which all the facts and evidence in the case could be carefully considered and acted upon.

"Unusual public interest has been manifested in the case of Sacco and Vanzetti. There is a feeling in the public mind that Sacco and Vanzetti were not accorded a fair trial. There is a widespread belief that they were victims of circumstances and of inflamed public opinion which existed at the time of their trial. In some quarters it has been stated that they were found guilty because of their activities in behalf of labor and because they were representatives of labor. Sacco and Vanzetti never were known as representatives of labor nor were they ever active in behalf of organized labor as represented by the American Federation of Labor. They advocate a philosophy which is not in accord with the trade union philosophy advocated by the American Fed-

eration of Labor.

"Notwithstanding this fact, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor earnestly desires that every person charged with the commission of a crime shall be given a fair and impartial trial and guilt of the crime charged established beyond a reasonable doubt before the one charged with the commission of the crime is pronounced guilty.

"The social order demands that even-handed justice be accorded to everyone charged with the commission of a crime.

"The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor entertains no opinion as to the guilt or innocence of Sacco and Vanzetti. Enough of doubt, however, has been created to cause it to believe that an investigation of the testimony and evidence submitted at the trial, new evidence which has been developed and the methods employed in bringing about their conviction should be made by the Governor of Massachusetts, as petitioned for by Sacco and Vanzetti and by numerous citizens of standing and influence throughout the land.

"In the interest of justice, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor appeals to Governor Fuller of Massachusetts to institute a most rigid and thorough investigation of the Sacco and Vanzetti trial and conviction and the evidence offered in connection therewith. If said investigation confirms the doubt held by many people regarding the guilt of Sacco and Vanzetti we would respectfully request that Governor Fuller exercise the pardoning power conferred upon him by the laws of Massachusetts."



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Husbands and Wives In the Labor Movement

By FANNIA M. COHN

I. THE UNEXPECTED MEETING

The worker's wife is waiting for her husband in the evening. All day long she has been busy—cooking, cleaning, caring for the children. But knowing that her husband, too, is wholly devoted to this purpose—of having the family happy—she has been stimulated to greater efforts. It is within her province to make her husband happy, she feels, and so she prepares the meal that he likes best, sets the table attractively, has the children freshen themselves so that their brightness will add to the pleasure of dinner; tells them to have their marks ready so that daddy can see how good they have been in school.

Everything is ready now. The children have been sniffing the cooking, but they have been told that they must hold their appetites in check. The wife is expecting a compensation for her labor in the pleasure she will have when she sees the family about the table, everyone responding to the homelike atmosphere, and husband, children—the family—all happy.

But the husband is delayed. Looking through the window does not bring him. The children, impatiently awaiting daddy, jump at every knock and are disappointed with even a usually most welcome friend. Their happy expressions gradually give place to looks of disappointment. They grow restless and begin to clamor for their food. An exchange of unpleasant remarks follows. Mother no longer urges them to wait for daddy through the window, but instead commands them to wait for him. Her face, sad and annoyed, frightens the children. They do not question or complain any more, but find an outlet for their disappointment in quarrels with each other.

The already impatient mother is annoyed by this. She sharply commands them to be quiet. The carefully laid table becomes a source of irritation to all of them, still further exciting their appetites, and contrasting their pleasant expectations of a half-hour before with their disappointment now.

A neighbor steps in and unintentionally adds to the wife's irritation by her surprise that the family has not yet eaten dinner. She and her husband are on their way to the movies and have come to invite the family to join them.

An hour has passed. The children are really hungry now and the mother feels she cannot compel them to wait any longer. Just then a knock is heard at the door—and it is opened to reveal the druggist's boy with a telephone message from the husband. An unexpectedly called meeting of the local's executive board made it impossible for him to come home to dinner.

Bitterly irritated, the wife clears the table and serves the food in the kitchen. The children, affected by their mother's mood, are silent. Dishes are slammed about and the unpleasant meal is not a long one. The wife eats little, for she is reflecting angrily on her disappointment. The children hurry away as soon as they have finished eating, and escape to their beds—most welcome refugees now from that tense atmosphere.

Hours later, long after the wife's bed time, a knock at the door arouses the wife from her bitter thoughts. She opens the door. Her husband appears with his usually cordial greeting, his arms outstretched to embrace her. He

is given a cold angry reception which he cannot understand. Worried, he asks—has anything happened to the children. Here the wife loses her temper—his air of innocence is too much for her. Doesn't he realize what it has meant to her and the children—how she was tortured this evening while waiting for him? Doesn't he appreciate what the family gathering means to her after a hard day's work at house-keeping to make the family's life happy?

Her husband expresses his unpleasant surprise at this outburst—at his lack of consideration of her and the children, at his failure to realize how the long evening affected them. But, he asks, where was he? Hasn't he been spending the evening in the interest of his family? Was he looking for pleasure for himself? As a member of the executive board of his local union, he is subject to call at any time to attend a special meeting. Wasn't he as disappointed as his wife that he couldn't have dinner at home with her and the children? But if an emergency arose in his local, and he was called on to forego his pleasure, he did it. His wife must know that the family's well-being depends upon the strength of the union. He had to go.

Oh, says she, he is always giving his first attention to the union and little consideration to her and the children. Is the union more important to him than their family life? How long, she wonders, will she be the victim of her husband's activities in the union. She can't understand why he is so anxious to be active. She thinks that he is doing enough for his union by paying his dues and meeting other financial obligations. She can't understand why the officers who are paid don't do all these jobs.

After a few attempts to explain, the husband waves his hands helplessly and attributes her ignorance to "womanhood"—"a woman is only a woman." A woman's desire, he feels is to put the home above everything else, forgetting that the husband must make that happy home possible, a possibility which depends upon his earning capacity and his leisure. He knows that an improvement in either of these can be achieved only through the strength of the trade union movement of which he, as a wage earner, is a member and that, consequently, any time he gives to his union is very valuable to him.

II. WHERE TROUBLES BEGIN

It is at this point that the difficulties between husband and wife arise. He, actively engaged in the organization, has learned the importance of the union, and knows that the movement has made it possible for him to get a large return of what he has produced and shorter hours and thus enabled him to give more attention to his family. He knows that the movement has made it possible for him to develop his innate capacity for leadership, and has strengthened in him an altruistic outlook on life. He has learned the place his trade union movement has given him in our social structure as a worker and a citizen. His outlook on life has been broadened.

But what has been done to keep his wife and all other married women enlightened on these subjects? Often when a young man and young woman

Pioneer Youth Camp Opens June 28

We have already reported the good news that Pioneer Youth of America have bought a new camp site of 140 acres situated in a most beautiful location in Rifton, New York, Catskill Mountains, near Kingston.

Scores of workers have been busily engaged constructing new and model buildings and equipping the camp with necessary conveniences. The organization is determined to erect a model camp on this site suitable to the needs of the boys and girls.

Our readers know that Pioneer Youth Camp is an educational, creative

"IN ABRAHAM'S BOSOM"

"In Abraham's Bosom," the Pulitzer prize play, was reopened at the Provincetown Playhouse on May 8th and will play there through May and June. "Justice" readers, who were able to secure tickets for this play while it ran at the Garrick at half price will, however, not be able to obtain same at reduced rates owing to full houses.

CHILD LABOR

No fledgling feeds the father bird!
No chicken feeds the hen!
No kitten mouses for the cat—
This glory is for men!

We are the Wisest, Strongest Race—
Loud may our praise be sung!
The only animal alive
That lives upon its young!
—Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

marry, the wife is more advanced—the husband feels it an honor to have her marry him. Several years of married life elapse and a few children come, the woman occupied all the while with her family affairs—with "domestic science," the man at the same time, as in the case above described, being active in his union. He has now become the "superior intellect." He has developed and she remained backward. When she makes some suggestions in his affairs, he says good-naturedly—"Oh, well, what do you, a woman, a housewife, know about all these things?" The development is a perfectly natural one—but it comes as a great shock to her that she is not up to date in her ideas.

No matter what the well-paid masculine writers on the woman question may say, those of us who know women do not doubt for a moment that they can respond to ideals and are ready to make sacrifices for them. But how can we enlighten the housewife, wife of a trade unionist about the labor movement to arouse her enthusiasm in it? Women are never accused of lack of curiosity. The faculty might be utilized in the most constructive and enlightening manner. But where to get a teacher?

Does the husband willingly share his trade union experiences with his wife? Seldom. How many times have we heard a wife trying to get information from her husband about his trade union activities, about the problems which he must solve only to be told—sometimes good-naturedly, sometimes impatiently—"Oh, I'm always busy with trade union problems. I don't want to take them into my home, I want to forget about them for

camp for boys and girls, conducted on a non-profit basis with cooperation of progressive educators and labor organization.

It is the purpose of Pioneer Youth of America to make available to the boys and girls of America opportunities for developing into healthy, self-reliant, social-minded and intelligent men and women.

Those who wish to send their children to the camp can make arrangements at once. For all information regarding registration, directions, necessary equipment, etc., apply at the office of Pioneer Youth, 6th floor of the I. L. G. W. U. Building, 3 West 16th Street, telephone Chelsea 0550.

THEATRE BENEFIT ARRANGED FOR PIONEER YOUTH

A drive is being made to raise funds for the equipment and development of Pioneer Youth of America which has just bought a new camp site at Rifton, New York. To this end a women's committee interested in Pioneer Youth has arranged for a performance of "The Barker" one of the best plays on Broadway, for the benefit of Pioneer Youth. This will be given at the Biltmore Theatre on Tuesday evening, June 7th.

Tickets are from \$1.10 to \$2.75 and can be obtained at the office of Pioneer Youth, 3 West 16th Street, or by telephoning Chelsea 0550.

Come and spend an enjoyable evening and help a good cause.

a while. Let's talk about something else."

It's quite natural—all of us want our minds turned away from our daily problems. But the good husband does not realize that while he, occupied with trade union problem most of the time, wants leave of them when he is home, his wife has had none of them. She doesn't know much about the labor movement and yet is eager to share his problems with her husband, instinctively feeling it would bring her close to him.

What is to be done? Here is a problem! Is there no way of enlightening the women on the trade union movement without waiting for their husbands to do the teaching? We know from experience that husband and wife will gladly discuss subjects on which they are both equally enlightened, and willingly accept each other's advice. But each is reluctant to teach the other.

The solution for this problem is not easy to find, but not impossible. It requires careful consideration which we will attempt to give it in another article. In that consideration the suggestions of others would be valuable.

We must suggest in the meantime, however, that the application of domestic science and time saving devices will relieve wives of much of the drudgery of their work and so free them for such enlightenment. The problem must then be approached from a psychological and an economic point of view. In the light of present day conditions and with a confidence that women are susceptible of enlightenment and that the enthusiasm they display for many other causes can be won for the labor movement.

Mexico Is Building A New National Economy

By M. N. S.

After four hundred years of oppression at the hands of the Spanish conqueror—oppression which continued even after independence—ten long years of internal social revolution, five years given over almost entirely by a determined government to the organization of peace, the struggle-wearied through expectant and hopeful people of Mexico, restless to see results from their sacrifices, are today launched upon a gigantic, far-reaching program of political, social and economic reconstruction outlined by a post-revolutionary government.

In the stupendous labor of reorganizing the new Mexico, the problem confronting the central government with President Calles at the helm was was at a loss where to begin to bring home to the peasant who, after all, forms some eighty per cent of the entire population of Mexico, the certainty of building a new Mexico. The post-revolutionary governments were obliged to work out in some way a complete and living example of their entire program and ideals so as to prevent any physical or psychological difficulties arising against them in the future.

President Calles, with his usual sagacity, choose a unique way of doing this. His experiment has succeeded beyond all expectation and much of its success is due to the assistance and cooperation given him by the masses of the population that had suffered so bitterly under the old regime.

It must be remembered that for centuries, the abuses in Mexico have come always from the same source—an agricultural population dispossessed of the land—and that almost alone is this social, economic and cultural problem directly responsible for the revolutionary outbreak in 1910.

Calles chose to carry his program entirely through in some few states, letting these serve as examples for the others. This does not mean that the remainder of the country has been neglected. On the contrary, the program of reorganization has reached into every state, but it has been especially stressed—last year, for instance, in the states of Durango, Hidalgo, Guanajuato and Michoacan where salient reasons of an agrarian and social nature favored its intensified action first.

Industrially, these four states, in line with Mexico throughout, are developing rapidly. Foreigners and foreign capital are especially interested in their industrial resources. Their problem, however, is not their industrial development, the building of great industries, technical improvements and so forth but the solution of the land question—meaning the development of agricultural properties, creation of small property holders, the education of those small proprietors and improvement of their methods of production.

The Government's action in returning the ejidal lands to the villagers was the first step in these four states as well as throughout the Republic. But President Calles, recognized that possession of the land itself is as nothing if education and social betterment for the younger generation cannot be provided for. Therefore, in these four states, modern, scientific agricultural schools have been erected where practical—the schools are in large part self-supporting in that the students, under direction, work the large lands connected with them—as well as theoretical training is given to the young farmers—sons of ejidatarios from whom

so much is expected when they are actually settled on the land.

As only really economically independent farmers, free to cultivate the soil and improve their working methods unoppressed by the constant strain of economic oppression could carry such a program to a successful end, the fullest financial aid of the government and the creation of credit institutions adapted to the mentality of the peasant and Indian were necessary. The collective spirit of the peasants had to be strengthened; the peasant had to be shown that better living conditions for himself and his family were directly dependent on how far the community as a whole flourished; that, in turn, the improved community depended on every one taking part in the cooperative societies.

The Mexican peasant, accustomed for centuries and through a special system of land tenure—the ejido—to collective work, responded enthusiastically to this appeal. Cooperative societies sprang up, as it were, overnight. What European countries took decades to work out was accomplished in Mexico in a few years. This almost instinctive idea of cooperative organization which the Mexican peasant carries down from his ancient tribal history and which existed too for many years during the period of Spanish domination in Mexico explains why only one year after the establishment of a Federal Agrarian Bank, it reports some eight million pesos loaned to approximately two hundred co-operative societies. The Government ruling not to loan money to individual peasants also gave impetus to the organization of cooperative societies.

The development of the agricultural-financial institution in accordance with the new law relating to agrarian ejidal banks, was as follows: A bank was inaugurated in each of the four experimental states on the first of May the year ago. Each institution had an initial capital of 200,000 pesos divided in 20,000 shares of 10 pesos each. The Government, knowing that everything hinged upon the immediate and efficient working of these banks, subscribed the total amount of all four banks, paid to each one 40,000 pesos in cash and 50,000 pesos worth of agricultural implements. The Ministry of Agriculture also provided 51,000 pesos worth of farm implements to each bank for distribution among the ejidatarios at the lowest possible prices, thus stimulating better working methods.

After the peasants were convinced that the local banks really served their own interests, the co-operative societies in the four states acquired during a period of eight months—from May through December, 1923—10,842 shares valued at 100,420 pesos in cash. During the same period, these four banks loaned 368,244 pesos to 166 co-operative societies and 12,744 peasants—this being the number of peasants enrolled as members in the co-operatives in the four experimental states—were benefited. While the capital of those societies entirely in the hands of their members amounts to 28,387 pesos, the societies in this short period have been able to subscribe shares in the new banks to an extent much higher than the capital of their own societies.

Considering that this was done in a few months, and that it is only the beginning and a mere sample of the future development in those four states and in other states throughout the Republic where organization will undoubtedly be even more rapid, not being handicapped by a hesitancy in

Manumit Spring Festival Next Sunday

The children of Manumit School, at Pawling, New York, are preparing a picturesque spring festival for Sunday, May 29. Invitations have been issued for an entire day's festivities, to include an informal exhibition of the project work of the children, a music demonstration in the morning, a buffet luncheon served under the trees, a pageant of international labor in six scenes, two operettas, and a hasty packet supper for those who must hurry for the last train.

The International Labor Pageant will consist of a series of historical sketches written by the children themselves. The first scene is from Ancient Babylonia, where an incident will be portrayed in the building of the Hanging Gardens. Scene two presents a scene in the Forest of Sherwood in Mediaeval England, depicting the life of the English serfs. Scene three will show the Labor Guilds of Paris contending for their rights. Scene four will picture a typical plantation scene of the South during the days of slavery. Scene five will give a typical picture of peasant life in Russia with all its color and simplicity. The last scene will give a symbolic presentation of what Manumit children hope the future may have in store for them.

Two operettas will be presented by the children, one of which, entitled, "Powder Puff, Please", has been com-

posed by several of the Manumit children.

Manumit is an experimental school for the children of workers, both of hand and brain. It has received wide commendation from well known educators for its broad social viewpoint and the freedom which it offers to the children for truly creative activity. The festival will be a unique opportunity to observe what children so educated are capable of accomplishing. Tickets are on sale at the School, or at the New York office, 303 Bible House.

MACCABEE SOCCER TEAM SAIL FOR THE UNITED STATES

The Maccabee soccer team, champions of Palestine, sailed today on board the Canarder Aquitania, which is due at New York on May 27, for an extended tour of the United States.

Intense interest is already being shown in soccer circles in New York, Brooklyn, Newark, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland in the coming visit of the Palestine champs who have built up such a fine reputation in their own country through winning the highest honors on the soccer field.

The opening game will be played at Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, on Sunday, June 5, against a picked team chosen from the stars of the New York State Association.

President Sigman's Visit In Chicago

(Continued from page 3)
man visited the Chicago Joint Board. The meeting place was overcrowded with members of the Union, and here, too, Brother Sigman was received with a burst of applause. We must not forget, however, that there were some Communists in the hall, too, and they proved that they were true adherents of the Communist principle of "tolerance", which expresses itself, in raising a rumpus. They tried it here, but they were drowned out by the applause of several hundred pairs of hands. President Sigman related the same facts at this meeting as at Local 54 meeting. It was midnight before he ended. The crowd of members, many of them on their feet all evening, because there were not enough seats in the hall, began to disperse. The "lefts" wanted to continue the meeting, so that they could discuss President Sigman's statements. It did not matter to them that the great majority of the members were leaving, so long as their own few elect remained. When Sigman declared that he wished all who heard him to be present at the discussion and to hear his answers, it was decided to continue next morning, Saturday.

Saturday's meeting was devoted to some questions on the New York situation, and several speeches which concerned Chicago more than New York. President Sigman answered all inquiries and questions put to him

accepting new ways and new ideas, the progress and the work actually accomplished for the uplifting of the Mexican peasant and the well-being of the nation is clear.

Today, it is certain that in the not far distant future, the total capital of those four banks will pass entirely into the hands of the cooperative societies, the members of which have already realized the necessity of these credit institutions. Thus the Government will have its money free for investment in similar projects in other states and so in time will the entire Republic be covered

clearly and straightforwardly, and I am sure that he succeeded in opening the eyes of many followers of the Communist bandwagon and made them see how they had been fooled and bluffed.

Besides the meetings of the Joint Board, President Sigman also addressed the Pressers Local 18, the Operators Local 5, Cutters Local 81, and Dressmakers Local 100.

Nothing unusual took place at the cutters' meeting. The meeting of the operators, however, was very well attended. Despite the fact that the "lefts" issued a leaflet announcing the meeting, without even mentioning the fact that the President would speak, many old members, who had not attended meetings for a great length of time, because they did not wish to mix in Communist politics, came to hear Brother Sigman.

The Local 18 meeting of the Pressers adopted a resolution after President Sigman's address, pledging their loyalty and support to the International and its policies. This resolution was opposed by two votes, but was accepted by the rest of the meeting. A resolution was also adopted, with the same number of votes, denouncing the "Freiheit" because of its malicious attacks upon the International.

President Sigman was presented with a great bouquet of flowers, sent by a group of workers of the shop of Shenker, Mihal & Weinstein, as a token of the loyalty and devotion to him and to the International.

President Sigman is being expected back in Chicago some time next month, and he will appear before meetings of the Finishers Union, Local 59; the Polish Local No. 60; and the Ladies' Tailors Local 104.

I do not know how Brother Sigman was impressed with the situation in Chicago. He will probably write about it soon. But I can confidently say that President Sigman's visit made a very favorable and lasting impression upon our membership here, and I am sure that the situation in Chicago will profit greatly because of it.

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

Having exhausted every means of further carrying on their union-smashing work, the Communists now again hit upon the scheme of staging "impartial" meetings in the hope of diverting in this manner the energies of the workers from the legitimate activities of the Union. This latest Communist "peace" move took place last Monday night, May 23, in Cooper Union, under the auspices of a so-called "Independent Group of the Cloak and Dress Makers".

Union Members Put Out

A rather unusual attempt was made at the outset to give it the appearance of a "rank and file" meeting. A number of members of the International, hoping against hope that the Communists had finally come to their senses and that the meeting might really be conducted impartially, gained admittance. A number of members of Local 10, came to the office the following day and told the writer that the usual "red guard" was not prominent at the entrances though they did see some well known "left" leaders hidden at some of the doors leading into the meeting-room.

The affair was so thoroughly disguised that even the English daily Communist organ was forced to admit that A. Student, an international member of Local 2, was forced to quit when the audience "kept on shouting, time is up; time is up".

The same sheet neglected, however, to make mention of the fact that good-standing members of Local 10 were forced out of the meeting by police. Abe Reiss, a good-standing member of Local 10, who had gained admittance in the hope of seeing that impossible thing, an impartial meeting, was set upon by a suspended member of Local 10, immediately after which a policeman approached him and told him that he would have to leave the hall. Reiss showed his union book, saying to the officer: "not only am I legally entitled to stay at this meeting by virtue of the fact that I am a member of the Union, but I am an American citizen and an ex-service man and certainly have as much right here as the others." The officer was forced to recognize his rights and walked away from him. However, a few moments later the police sergeant approached him, and refusing to listen to his protestations, finally compelled him and several other members of Local 10, to leave the hall.

The more alert members, however, were not at all surprised over the complete dominance by the Communists of the meeting. They said that no member of the International was given an opportunity to speak and if one, through sheer courage or defiance, did rise to speak, he was shouted down. Other members, less active, were completely disillusioned. A few

frankly admitted that they had looked to this meeting as a possible means of putting an end to the smashing of the Union by the Communists, but they, too, finally admitted that there was "no such animal" as impartial people and that the only kind of peace that would satisfy the "lefts" is complete Communist domination.

Active Dress Cutters Meet

A meeting of about one hundred active dress cutters took place in the headquarters of Local 10 last Saturday afternoon, May 21st, where they discussed the question of undertaking some sort of a campaign that would prevent the dress shops from being plunged into further chaos created by the recent "left" leadership of the Union. It was truly a remarkable meeting from the point of view of enthusiasm and interest.

The effect of the meeting was so heartening that a new spirit seemed to have permeated the dress cutters who were to be seen in large groups in the office of the local during the course of the entire week. The men present at the meeting readily volunteered their services for any kind of work that might be put to them by the office.

Considerable time was consumed by those present in the discussion of conditions in the trade and the possibilities for an organizing campaign of cutters. Many instances were cited showing the demoralized condition into which the dress trade was plunged by the total disregard of the former "left" leadership of the Union for organizing work. The employers of contracting shops with whom the International would not sign because of improper working conditions and failure to employ cutters had signed up with the defunct Joint Board and were immune from compulsion to put on a cutter.

The executive board at its last meeting, when it was decided to call this meeting of active dress cutters, had declared the next membership meeting a special one for the purpose of taking up the dress cutters' situation. This meeting will be held on Monday, June 13th, in Arlington Hall, owing to the fact that next Monday, May 30th, is Decoration Day.

Victim of Communist Strategy

In one of the issues of the puppet organ of the scab Communist organization, much was made of one Arthur Sinn, who was sentenced to prison during the recent cloak strike. The scab organ sought to make much of the martyrdom of Sinn under the caption, "Another 'Communist' Slagger". This item says that "Arthur Sinn... has been a member of Local 10 for the past eleven years... His record as a Union man is known to be the best. However, this record did not prevent the informers, the Sigmans & Dubinskys, to help send him to jail".

All this may be good "left" truth. But normal people who are in the habit of looking into facts and the case concerning and surrounding Sinn altogether different. First, he is not a member of the Union for eleven years. Secondly, "his record as a Union man" is not known to be the best, since he dropped out of the Union in October, 1925. Thirdly, according to Sinn's own words, "the Sigmans and Dubinskys" had nothing to do with sending him to jail, but he is a victim of Communist strategy, the same as are the rest of the cloakmakers now languishing in prisons, for here is his statement:

"President Sigmans and Brothers

of the International:

"I have now realized that Hy-

What the Cutters Should Read in the "History of Local 10"

In the issue of "Justice" of May 13, reference was made to the third chapter of the "History", describing "The United Cloak and Suit Cutters' Association". Attention was directed to Page 39 of that chapter, treating of the expansion of the industry and the formation of the I. L. G. W. U. in 1900. Pages 40 and 41 tell of the expansion of the "United Cloak and Suit Cutters' Association" and its receipt of a charter from the I. L. G. W. U. as Local 6. Page 4 begins treating of the internal problems of the cutters. In that issue of "Justice" the Association in 1901 began considering the problem of the cutters' organizations which included the Gotham Knife Cutters and the Manhattan Knife Cutters. An Arbitration Committee was created, of which Joseph Baroness was a member. Details are gone into on Page 44 of the "History".

"A Joint Harmony Committee of the three locals took up its work in July, 1901. An agreement was reached with the Gotham Association in October which was ratified by Local 6 but its terms are not stated in the minutes of the latter organization. The committee continued its work but made no progress for the remainder of the year and was compelled to ask for additional time to complete its work. Local 6 wished to obtain jurisdiction over all New York cutters and its efforts were devoted to this end. It was the strongest cutters' union in the city and its desire to absorb the Manhattan and Gotham locals was to be expected. However, the Manhattan Knife Cutters had affiliated with the International as Local 9 in October, 1900, fifteen months before Local 6 received its charter. As Local 9 was the first cutters' local to join the International it was conscious of the prestige which this fact gave it and its members resisted assimilation by Local 6. Moreover, the members of Local 9 were largely of the newer immigrant type of Jewish workers with radical views, while Local 6 was composed in the main of native born or Americanized citizens of Irish and German origins who were determined to maintain the tradition of a 'skilled craft' in their local".

"Committees of Local 6 and the Gotham Knife Cutters held conferences month after month into February 1902, when Andrew J. Smith (recently deceased), reported to Local 6 that an agreement had been reached with Gotham to form a trades council and that Local 6 should consider the matter of representation on this council. At the same time Local 6 sent word to Gotham that 'its members who are working in the cloak trade' should obtain working cards at once. Thus the question of jurisdiction is asserted at the moment of agreeing to organization of a trades council of cutters. This issue, however, was the beginning of a heated

controversy in Local 6 which induced the Executive Committee to report on March 6 that it had decided 'on radical measures to maintain order and decorum in this association.' On March 12 Smith introduced a resolution which precipitated a stormy struggle and divided Local 6 into two factions.

"The resolution was an approach to a settlement of the quarrels among the cutters' unions. It proposed to make some important concessions to pave the way to the organization of a trades council of cutters and to leave to the delegates of this body the duty of adjusting any other differences that might arise and also obtain cooperation of all cutters for their common interests. The author of the resolution, however, does not seem to have possessed the tact required to win some members to his point of view and it also appears that some influential members sincerely believed that any concessions by Local 6 in the matter of jurisdiction would be a mistake and they stubbornly opposed any change in the policy of the local. In a disorderly meeting charged with much feeling the resolution was adopted by a vote of 25 to 9 but only after some confused voting on two amendments and a decision by President McCauley which left the question in an unsatisfactory state for some members and the whole matter was reconsidered in a special meeting on March 17th.

"The question announced at this special meeting was to reconsider the action taken in 'waiving the right over the ladies' shirt waist and washable goods to another body.' The resolution of March 12 was rescinded and Smith entered a protest on the ground that this action was unconstitutional. At the following meeting on March 19, the members declared the action of the special meeting 'null and void.' President Herman Grossman of the International was detained in the hall until this decision was reached and then was admitted to the meeting. Grossman appealed to the members to avoid factional quarrels and then retired. Andrew J. Smith, whose resolution had brought so much heat into the local, made a dramatic statement. Taking from his pocket a sworn statement which he intended to use in obtaining a writ of mandamus against the local if it approved the action of the special meeting of March 17, he destroyed it after disclosing the character of the document. Thereupon another resolution was introduced to reconsider the action of the meeting on March 12 at the next meeting, but it was defeated. President McCauley appointed a committee to find 'ways and means' to amalgamate 'this organization and the Gotham Association' and the meeting adjourned.

(To be continued)

Not only is this part of the Union's history interesting from the angle of jurisdiction but through the course of this entire controversy in spite of two threats by Andrew J. Smith to seek redress in the courts, the entire matter of the question of jurisdiction and the resultant internal factionalism was fought out within the councils of the union. Whenever, as can be seen, the question had to be taken out of the local proper, for settlement or interpretation it was for the purpose of taking it into other legitimate channels, such as the I. L. G. W. U., the Central Body and the American Federation of Labor. No outside groups were formed. And no domination by any outside bodies was evident.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that Local 10 announced the death of three of its active members who passed away within the space of one week's time. They are: Henry Engelhart, aged 39, lately residing at 61 West 32nd Street, who had first joined the Union in 1915. Elias Baruth, aged 50, lately of 2150 Creston Avenue, Bronx, 11 years a member of Local 10. Henry Cohen, aged 53, lately residing at 767 Tinton Avenue, Bronx, for 26 years affiliated with Local 10.

The condolences of the organization are extended to the bereaved families.

man and his gang have turned their backs on me. I was told to plead guilty and received the pen from (Judge) Rosalsky. This morning I was tried by Special Sessions. I had no lawyer and no help from them. When I am through with the first sentence, which is one year, I will have to serve the second. This is because they know that I am not one of them.

"I will try to get even with them even if I will send them all to jail. I would like to hear from you or Bushel, the lawyer.

"(Signed) ARTHUR SINN.

Ledger 3155."